

April 26, 1994

ACID RAIN ETS USER BULLETIN #1

Introduction

Since the release of ETS-PC v2.0 on March 25, 1994, EPA has received numerous user reports regarding the initial production version of software. This software may be used by utilities in preparing their quarterly emissions data reports required under the Acid Rain Program rules (40 CFR Part 75). EPA is pleased that many utilities and CEM-DAHS software vendors are using this diagnostic tool for assessing the quality of quarterly emissions data reports, and appreciates the timely and invaluable feedback these users have provided.

Users have reported five errors or deficiencies in the operation of ETS-PC v2.0 as applied to their quarterly emissions data reports. EPA has analyzed the reported errors and is providing information in this bulletin on how all users should accommodate these known software deficiencies when preparing their quarterly report submissions under 40 CFR Part 75. EPA intends to correct these deficiencies and make other enhancements in its next release of ETS-PC. These enhancements will include data format checking software for dual stack configurations.

This document is the first in a series of user bulletins EPA plans to release on the Acid Rain Emissions Tracking System (ETS). User bulletins will address future releases of ETS-PC, implementation of direct electronic transmission capability for quarterly report submissions, user-reported errors or deficiencies in ETS-PC, and provide answers to other questions EPA has received through user support. All user bulletins will be posted on the Clean Air Act Amendments bulletin board (under Title IV, Policy and Guidance).

If you have questions about the program or would like to provide additional information to EPA about the software, please contact user support, staffed by Perrin Quarles Associates, Inc. (PQA) at 804-979-3700 (fax: 804-296-2860). PQA will refer technical questions relating to the operation of the software and suggestions for items to be incorporated in future user bulletins to EPA.

Questions and Responses to Reported Errors in ETS-PC v2.0

1. Common Stack Data Evaluation

Q: Although I have ordered the common stack records as requested in the Supplementary EDR Instructions (dated 3/25/94), ETS-PC reports errors relating to Missing Record Type 300s. In addition, the program terminates abnormally with a file read error relating to the IDS.TXT file. Should I change the order of the file?

A: *No, please ignore these errors. The correct order is to provide all common stack data, followed by Record Type 300 and 301 data for each constituent unit, as specified in the Supplementary EDR Instructions. ETS-PC v2.0 is not able to process a properly ordered common stack file. The software should identify correctly internal record consistency, errors in calibration calculations and other problems relating to the data reported from the common stack.*

2. Missing Record Type 300s Message for Complete First Quarter Files

Q: When I process a file containing records for each hour of the First Quarter, 1994, ETS-PC reports that the file is "Missing Record Type 300s." I have reviewed the file and determined that the file accounts for all hours in the quarter. Is there a problem with ETS-PC?

A: *Yes, ETS-PC v2.0 contains an error and expects 2,208 hours for the First Quarter, 1994, instead of 2,160. This error message usually appears at the end of the SEQLOG.DAT log file. The message does not identify a starting hour for the identified gap in Record Type 300s. The user should ignore the message.*

3. Erroneous Messages Relating to Calibration Records

Q: ETS-PC reports the error "Cal Data on Day When Monitor Not Used" even though the data does not include this type of record. Is there a problem with the file?

A: *In some circumstances, ETS-PC v2.0 is reporting this error when the situation does not exist. Review the data to determine that the calibration records relate to reported data and ignore the error message.*

4. Reporting Record Type 210s When Using Missing Data Procedures for Record Type 320

Q: When the file includes an hour of NO_x emission rate data using missing data procedures, it does not include a Record Type 201 or 210. ETS-PC informs me that a Record Type 210 is missing for the hour. Is this a problem?

A: *No. When you have missing data for a Record Type 320, it is not necessary to report a Record Type 201 or 210. ETS-PC v2.0 generates an erroneous message for a missing Record Type 210 in this instance.*

5. Calculation of Calibration Error for Diluent Records

Q: For CO₂ data which is reported for each hour in both Record Type 202 and 210, I report two sets of calibration records, one set identifying the CO₂ component of the CO₂ system and the other the CO₂ component of the NO_x system. ETS-PC identifies an error in the calibration error calculation for the NO_x diluent calibration record, but not for the CO₂ system calibration record. Why?

A: *It is correct to report two sets of calibration records, one for each system. In both cases the calibration error for the CO₂ monitor should be calculated as the absolute value of the difference between the measured value and the reference value. ETS-PC v2.0 selects the wrong formula to recalculate the calibration error for the Record Type 230 reported for the CO₂ diluent record. Please disregard error messages related to this calculation.*

Status of Direct Electronic Transmission Capability

EPA is postponing the general distribution of the key files needed for direct electronic transfer of quarterly report submissions into the Acid Rain ETS. For the First Quarter, 1994, EPA requests that all utilities submit quarterly emissions data files on diskette or tape. EPA will soon provide additional information regarding the key files and access to the IBM mainframe, on which the ETS operates, located at the EPA National Computer Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

The Acid Rain Division is currently establishing User IDs

(referred to as TSO LOGON IDs) and RACF (Resources Access Control Facility) security profiles for accessing ETS datasets for the Phase I designated representatives (DRs). EPA will provide to each DR the ability to transfer encrypted quarterly report data files (with digital signature) directly into source-specific partitioned datasets for each source for which the DR is responsible. These users will also have read-only access to decrypted information in these datasets. Once available, direct electronic transmission is an optional mode for submission of quarterly reports to EPA. EPA intends to allow utilities to submit their quarterly emissions data reports on diskettes or tapes in the future.